The Ladies' Garment Worker, September 1911

Echoes from the Triangle Fire

Dr. Price Suggests Co-operation Between the Waist Makers' Union and the Board of Sanitary Control.

Parents and friends of the 145 victims who were in the Triangle fire, says the New York "Call," and of the scores of workers who saved their lives but were maimed and injured, have written, telephoned and appeared in person at the office of the Ladies' Waist and Dress Makers' Union, in the last two days, calling upon the union to see to it that Harris & Blanck, the owners of the Triangle shop, be brought to trial. As a result of these numerous calls the Executive Board of the Ladies' Waist Maker's Union stirred up the committee of three which has been appointed some time ago to look into the Triangle case, to immediate, vigorous activity.

The committee, which consists of Sam Spivack, A. Silver, and Sam Gusman, met last night at 151 Clinton street to decide upon plans to co-operate with the parents and friends of the fire victims, and to determine upon ways and means of improving conditions in the shops where the lives of workers are daily exposed to the fire panics.

Several of the parents and friends of the Triangle victims, who called at the office of the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union, said that they will either get up a petition or will write personal letters to District Attorney Whitman calling upon him to bring Harris and Blanck to trial.

Dr. George M. Price, M. D., the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the Cloak and Suit Industry of New York, has written to the "Call" suggesting a way in which the Board might co-operate with the Waistmakers' Union.

"To compel the owners of the loft buildings to make radical improvements in their buildings, to spend huge sums for the protection of the lives and limbs of their tenants; to make lessees of shops institute fire drills, buy fire extinguishing apparatus and make other provisions for safety; to rouse the workers themselves to the necessity of taking care of their own lives and health, something more than newspaper talk, than creation of safety committees or State commissions are necessary.

Workers Must Depend Upon Selves.

The "Safety Committee" consists of some prominent men and women in the city. This committee has just completed an investigation of 400 factory buildings, and is preparing the report on conditions found.

There is also a special committee appointed by the Governor, the commission consisting of four lay members and seven Senators and Assemblyman, with the purpose of investigating factory conditions as to their relation to safety and health.

The Legislature also passed the "Hoye bill" which has been approved by the Mayor and is not as yet signed by the Governor. This bill provides for the creation of a new "fire-prevention bureau" in the Fire Department with a chief and several hundreds of inspectors whose duty it will be to inspect buildings, make recommendations as to their improvements for fire prevention and to order such improvements.

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/texts/newspaper/lgw_0911.html